



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ANTIBODY TESTING



A COVID-19 antibody test may tell if you have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

Your body makes antibodies when it fights an infection. Antibodies in your blood mean at one time you were exposed to COVID-19. Antibody tests find these antibodies in your blood and tell you if your immune system has responded to the infection.

Antibody tests may show if you have been previously infected.

A blood sample is used to find:

IgM = Develop early in an infection.

IgG = Develop later or after you've recovered.

An antibody test is different from the test in which a nasal swab is used to collect a sample from your throat, behind your nose. This test is called a PCR test, and it tells you if you are sick with COVID-19 right now.



Antibody Test vs PCR (swab) Test



A COVID-19 **antibody test** indirectly detects the virus by measuring our body immune response (IgM, IgG) to the virus. You can get this test if you had COVID-19 and recovered.



A COVID-19 **PCR test** directly detects the presence of the virus' generic material (RNA). You can get this test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Where can I get a COVID-19 antibody test?

You can get an antibody test at any of our UT Health RGV primary care clinical site locations. Call our Patient Care Call Center at **1-833-UTRGVMD** (1-833-887-4863) or visit us online at uthealthrgv.org to make an appointment with a primary care provider.

Is there a fee for COVID-19 antibody testing?

- If you would like us to bill your health insurance, you will need an order from your doctor or a UT Health RGV physician. There will be a fee for the doctor visit, and you may have additional out of pocket costs depending on your insurance plan. Please consult your insurance provider for further details about your coverage.
- If you are uninsured, you may qualify for assistance.
- If you prefer to pay cash or do not qualify for assistance, the fee for the antibody test is \$75, not including the doctor visit.

What does a **positive** antibody test result mean?

- If an antibody test is positive and shows antibodies are in your blood, you were likely infected with COVID-19.
- This does not guarantee you have immunity to the virus.
- It is important to still practice social distancing and make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people.

What does a **negative** antibody test result mean?

- If an antibody test is negative and shows no antibodies in your blood, you were likely not infected with COVID-19.
- You may have been tested early in your infection, or your body has not made enough antibodies to be detected.
- It is important to still practice social distancing and make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people.

If you test positive or negative for COVID-19 on a viral or an antibody test, you still should take preventive measures to protect yourself and others.

We do not know yet if people who recover from COVID-19 can get infected again. Scientists are working to understand this. We continue to gather knowledge about COVID-19 every day. For the most up to date information, please visit our website at uthealthrgv.org/coronavirus.



If you get sick with symptoms of COVID-19 (like a fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, or a decrease in your sense of smell or taste), you may need to be tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test. A PCR test is done by a healthcare worker who uses a nasal swab. Call our Patient Care Call Center at **1-833-UTRGVMD** (1-833-887-4863) to request a phone screening or you may fill out a request form online at uthealthrgv.org/coronavirus.



Scan QR Code

uthealthrgv.org/coronavirus